DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ALL ITS KINDRED ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own.—JOHNSON.

VOL. II. SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1850. NO. 5.

S. W. COLE, EDITOR. QUINCY HALL, BOSTON. J. NOURSE, PROPRIETOR.


## NORTH AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL CONVENTION.

THE report of the proceedings of this convention is very interesting and instructive, as it contains the discussions and different opinions on various kinds of fruit. But the mere decisions of such bodies of cultivators, from various sections of an extensive country, embracing different climates and locations, are of but very little practical utility to the cultivator. For instance, a variety of fruit may be thoroughly tested and found to be worthless in New England, and in a convention the delegation from this section might condemn it, and yet, as the majority of the convention may be from the Middle and Western States, where that fruit flourishes well, it may be recommended as first rate. This illustration shows that the decisions of such bodies of men, however skilful, are not to be relied on.

At this convention, a committee was appointed to recommend fruits for discussion. In some cases, their recommendation passed without opposition or comment. In other cases, members of the convention opposed the views of the committee, or made confirmatory remarks.

### APPLES.

We present our readers with the list of fruits offered by the committee, and their opinion of them, and briefly some of the remarks on them. Sometimes we make comments of our own—for some very important considerations have been entirely neglected in the discussions. The committee report—

*Roxbury Russet—first rate.* — No objection was offered to their opinion. In this section, where this fruit is cultivated more extensively than in any other region, many are discarding it as very uncertain.

*Hawthornden—first rate for cooking—second quality—productive and handsome.* — A number of members supported the views of the committee. Most of the apples called Hawthornden in this section, are the Maiden's Blush, and we have no doubt that the same mistake prevails in other sections.

*Maiden's Blush—second rate—very beautiful.* — It was remarked that it bore well that season, while most kinds had failed, and that it resembled the Hawthornden.

*Autumn Swaar.* — A member remarked that it was a handsome second rate fruit.

*Rambo.* — The president, Mr. Kennicott, said that it was the fall and early winter apple of Illinois. Mr. Bateham said that in Ohio it was esteemed higher than any other variety.

*Rawle's Janette.* — The president said it was much esteemed in his region. An excellent keeper. Mr. Bateham said that it was admirably adapted to the valleys of Southern Ohio, where other fruits were liable to decay from early ripening. Mr. Byram said that it was one of their standard fruits in Kentucky. He had kept specimens till the 4th of August.

### PEARS.

*Fondante d'Automne—first rate.*

*Duchesse d'Angoulemo—second rate.* — Mr. Hovey said that it could not have been seen in its best condition, to have been presented as second rate. Mr. Barry, one of the committee, said that it was not first rate in quality. A rather long discussion followed on this variety, some speakers regarding it as first rate, others as second rate, which shows the absurdity of arranging fruits under a gradation, with the grades so wide apart as first, second, and third rate. There is so wide a space between first and second rate, that many fruits are intermediate between them; and this pear is one of that class; and pomologists might discuss the subject a whole year, and not agree to call it first or second rate, when it is intermediate between these wide grades. As well might they fix on a mode of counting 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, &c., and thus dispute about arranging 2 or 3 with 1 or 5. Fruits should be arranged from 1 to 10. Then what is called second rate would be about 5 or 6, and third rate, as now reckoned, would be 9 or 10.

*Gansell's Bergamot—first rate.* — Several members said that it was a bad grower and poor bearer; the fruit, when in perfection, was first rate, but it was uncertain in some locations.

*Napoleon—good second rate.*

*St. Ghislain.* — Two of the committee called it first rate, and one regarded it as second rate. Mr. Barry

thought it was unsurpassable. Mr. Hovey thought it was first rate. Mr. Downing, one of the committee, had never seen it first rate. Different members expressed various views of this fruit, but generally they were favorable.

*Buffum.* — First rate by one of the committee, second rate by the other two. Different views were expressed concerning this fruit. As the Buffum is a native of New England, and generally good and salable, it is one of the best pears for orchard culture in this section; and it will doubtless do much better farther north than foreign varieties.

*Long Green — second rate.* — Mr. Hovey said that he considered it first rate, but not among the very best. Mr. Allen, of Oswego, said that it was good, but not always first rate.

*Julienne — second rate.* — Some speakers remarked that sometimes, but rarely, it was nearly first rate.

*Frederick of Wertemburg — second rate.* — Several speakers made remarks on this, showing that it varied from second rate, and sometimes almost first rate, to worthless.

*Fulton.* — First rate by two of the committee, second rate by one. Mr. Barry considered it first rate and it did well in the eastern and northern regions of the country. Mr. Hovey considered it nearly first rate. We have no doubt that for the north this pear is one of the most valuable varieties, as it originated in Maine.

*Passe Colmar — second rate.* — Several members of the convention spoke highly of this pear, and ranked it as first rate, when carefully ripened. Others regarded it as variable.

*Beurre Diel — nearly always first rate.* — In New England, this pear is very uncertain. In warm seasons it succeeds well in favorable locations, and is very fine.

*Beurre d'Amalis — second rate.*

*Dix — first rate.* — We are astonished in finding this pear highly commended by the convention, and yet nothing said of its great liability to crack, which it does in most cases.

*Easter Beurre — second rate.* — Mr. Hovey remarked that if it was well grown and properly ripened, it was the best winter pear. Others spoke unfavorably of it. Mr. Barry said that it was one of the best of pears on the quince, but not first rate on the pear stock.

*Bleecker's Meadow — second rate.* — Some speakers thought it was only second or third rate. As this pear is one of the greatest of growers, an early and abundant bearer, and one of the very finest pears for cooking, this valuable quality should have been considered.

*Beurre Bosc.* — Dr. Wendell said that it was first rate in every respect. We regard this as one of the very best pears in quality; but as it is a moderate grower, and a poor or moderate bearer, it is not profitable for the market.

This report is embellished with a frontispiece of the Kirtland pear, a seedling from Prof. J. V. Kirtland, Cleveland, Ohio. It is of a medial or rather small size; form roundish-ovate; of a rich crimson russet, varying to dull green; flesh of a fine texture, melting, rich, juicy; flavor sweet, aromatic, and delicious. Ripe in September. This seedling was raised by H. T. Kirtland, from seeds of the Seckel, presented by his brother, Prof. J. P. K. It is said to excel the Seckel in hardiness and productiveness, and some consider it superior in quality.

PLUMS.

*Smith's Orleans — first rate.*

*Duane's Purple — second rate.*

*Lawrence's Favorite — first rate.*

*Long Scarlet — second rate, but fine for cooking.*

*Lucomb's Nonsuch — nearly first rate.* — Mr. David Thomas counted it second rate. Mr. Hovey considered it as good in flavor for eating as Smith's Orleans. It was said not to be a good bearer, and rotted on the tree. Mr. Saul, of Newburg, said that the specimens presented were not fair ones; the plum was first rate as to its eating qualities. It was a large fruit, and a good though not profuse bearer, and good grower.

The convention did not discuss the merits of other fruits.

## FRUITS AND FRUIT TREES.

[Continued from p. 58.]

Feb. 13th, at the agricultural meeting, the discussion of this subject was continued; but as a large part of the time was taken up with a controversy in regard to a report, there was but little said on the subject.

Major Wheeler, of Framingham, spoke in favor of raising more apples, as this was an excellent fruit, and we had the finest climate in the world for it. He preferred setting large trees.

Captain George Pierce, of West Cambridge, said that the peach-tree borer would stand scalding-hot water, and he thought that they would stand lye also; but by making a basin around the tree, and pouring in six quarts of hot water, he generally destroyed them. He advocated the high culture of fruit trees, and raising no crops among them after they were large. From four apples-trees set in 1839, he gathered last season twenty-nine barrels of choice fruit, twenty barrels of which he sold for $100. He had sold $997 worth of fruit, the past season, from eight acres of land. He depended on good culture, rather than washes, to keep his trees in good condition. He said that it was a disadvantage to have the limbs of fruit trees come out high, and leave naked trunks exposed to the hot sun. As to trimming high to have the limbs above the reach of cattle, animals should never be allowed to go among trees.

Mr. French, of Braintree, said that, although he had succeeded tolerably well with trees in grass in some cases, where the land was in high condition, yet he thought that the land among the trees should be well cultivated. Many set trees too low in the soil. He advised setting near the surface, and the roots will run as low as is necessary.

## HAND AND HORSE GRAIN MILL.

This mill is very efficient and durable, and may be operated by hand or horse power, or by steam, water, or wind. It may be regulated so as to produce fine meal, or only for cracking grain, or making coarse meal for stock. It is simple in its operation, not liable to derangement, and when the grinding plates become worn, they can be replaced by new ones at a very small expense.

In many parts of the country, farmers are not well accommodated with grist mills in their vicinity, and these mills would be very advantageous. There is a great profit in cracking corn and oats before feeding them to stock; and with this machine it may be done at leisure, so that the cost will frequently be but a trifle. The cost of these mills is from twenty to thirty dollars.

### PEARS ON THE SHAD BUSH.

Mr. George Fitch, of South Bridgton, Me., informs us that he set some pear scions, last spring, in the Shad Bush, or June Berry, (generally called Sugar Plum, or Sugar Pear, in Maine,) which flourished tolerably well. He also set pear scions in the White Thorn. They all did well, and one, in its native locality, made an exceedingly large growth. Two scions were set in this stock; the main branch of one grew five feet and ten inches in length. The growth of both scions, with their branches, was twenty-three feet.

### REVIEW OF WOOL MARKET FOR JANUARY.

A short run among the manufacturers and dealers has convinced us that all our previous estimates of the amount of wool on hand is perfectly correct. A few manufacturers have a tolerable supply on hand, but as a general thing, not more than enough to stand them in hand until the next clip, even if it comes into market early. The large majority have not enough to keep them fully supplied for only a short time. The dealers have but light stocks on hand, and we are still of the opinion that all the wool in the country might be worked up by March, if it were an object.

The present high price of coarse and medium wools is bringing in a large amount of foreign, and we should not be surprised if the importations this year reached at least twenty millions. Fine wool continues depressed, and will not bring its relative value, though it is doing better than during the last month. One drawback upon the fine wool market, has been in the large quantity brought upon the market from the Springfield depôt. This once disposed of, and we hope the market will be more firm and steady.

Sales are making here of prime Saxony, at 50 @ 56 cents; full-blood, 45 @ 48 cents; grade Saxony and Merino, 38 @ 42 cents; common and medium grades, 33 @ 38 cents. These prices vary with the necessity of the manufacturers.

Astor House, New York, *Jan.* 24, 1850.

— *Editorial Correspondence of the Wool-Grower.*

Foreign Wool Market. — We also copy from the Wool-Grower the following remarks on the wool market in foreign countries: —

There is a considerable rise and a brisk business in the wool markets of the old country. And indeed it cannot be otherwise. The market has been greatly depressed by the political disturbances Western Europe has been laboring under for the last two years, and trade and confidence have been shaken to the utmost. Now peace and quiet have been restored, at least for a while, and buyers, reassured by these more favorable signs of the times, appear again in the market, and business brightens up. Another cause of the renewed activity of the purchasers of wool, and their eagerness for clearing the market, is the almost entire destruction of most of the improved sheep-folds in Hungary, which used to supply the markets of the east, as Breslau and Berlin, with the choicest lots. Every thing that could be made use of, even if inferior to the last-mentioned wools, has therefore been sought for; and hence the comparative higher prices and much activity in the wool market.

*For the New England Farmer.*

## FOREST TREES.

Mr. Cole: When this country was new, but little regard was paid to the preservation of timber; as the chief object of the settlers was to clear the land, and hasten it as fast as possible into a state of cultivation. The market prices also of Montreal, and New York, have made heavy drafts upon us, so much so that timber, both for building and fuel, is becoming scarce and dear among us, and now the railroads are calling for a share of what is left along on their lines. I have felt aware of this state of things for many years, with the exception of the railroads, the rapid advances of which have surprised us all. More than twenty years ago my attention was directed to this point by Fessenden's N. E. Farmer, the reading of which was worth more to me than ten times its cost, not only on this subject, but a thousand others. Thus, in "foreseeing the evil I hid myself." It has been my practice for many years, to allow the second growth of timber to come along after the axe, where we get our yearly supply of firewood, and as soon as the young timber is of sufficient size to prune, I cut out such as I please to destroy, and trim up the best and most thrifty trees about six feet from the ground, leaving perhaps from eight hundred to a thousand trees to the acre. I now have seven or eight acres of land in one parcel, producing a dense growth of second crop timber and wood, from one to seventeen years' growth; as this timber is all in one piece, it looks most beautifully as far as it has been trimmed up, and thinned out.

One part of it, about two acres, was cleared in 1814; a crop of wheat taken in 1815, then pastured until about 1833, when I discovered little white pine bushes coming up very thick all over the land. These were allowed to stand unmolested by the axe until 1839, at which time we thinned out the thickest of the bushes, and trimmed up the rest about six feet from the ground, leaving about eight hundred trees to the acre. Now, on going into this forest, it seems hardly possible that so great a quantity of timber could have grown there in so short a time. It is believed that there is more timber now already grown on this land, than was originally on it, setting aside a few large pines. My intention is to thin out this piece so as to leave about four hundred trees to the acre, and trim up at least twenty feet this season. This is what we call *upland;* timber formerly was chiefly hard wood. Our lowlands or swamps we manage in the same way, except we omit trimming, and let it take care of itself; we cut all clean as we go.

I have observed where timber in the swamp was originally Cedar and Pine, the second growth is chiefly Tamarack, [the American Larch, Hackmatack. — Ed.,] some Cedar, but no Pine; and on upland, where hard wood formerly grew, now some other varieties occupy their places. For instance, one piece, where the hard wood, Beech, Maple, &c., covered the land, now, after the land was burned over in a dry time, and fire destroyed the whole, a crop of Pigeon Cherries come up very thick all over the land where a Cherry tree was never before discovered.

In another instance, I observed where the land was originally covered by hard wood, White Pine is its second growth, and another, in the place of Pine and Hemlock, Maple has come up in great abundance; I have a lot of these, about three hundred trees, on some less than half an acre, growing most luxuriantly. It is proper to remark, however, that new varieties of timber do not always occupy the land where the original is cut off. An instance of this kind may be seen in Cornwall, a few rods distant from my own land, where the timber was all Cedar, and all taken off twenty-five or thirty years ago; this is all Cedar now, and is so thick that a man cannot pass between the trees in some places on account of their nearness to each other.

It is believed that fifteen acres of good wood land properly managed will be amply sufficient for timber, boards, &c., to keep buildings in repair, and firewood for a farm for ages to come. But I may not have adopted the best plan to accomplish the object, and if you or any of your readers can suggest any improvement on the above plan, you will greatly oblige a constant reader and lover of improvement.

Respectfully yours,

JOHN M. WEEKS.

West Farms, near Middlebury, Vt., *Feb.* 7, 1850.

*For the New England Farmer.*

## POULTRY.

Mr. Cole: We well recollect the time when carrying eggs to market was called rather a small business, and called forth sneers from the merchant's wife, the lawyer's spouse, and indeed many others, who by the by were frequently willing, if they could not get them without, to ride round, call at the farmer's an hour, "purchase a few eggs just for present use," and carry them home themselves. Why such an idea should prevail we never could divine, for it always looked as big to us as selling fishhooks three for two cents, candy for a cent a stick, or measuring tape by the pennyworth. But it is a fact, which in our opinion is now settled beyond all controversy, that there is no stock that the farmer keeps, which pays so well in proportion to the investment and care bestowed as poultry. In order, however, to realize a full profit, care must be taken in this as in all kinds of business. Hence, in order to have hens lay well in winter, the season when eggs sell at the highest prices, it is necessary to furnish them with a warm, dry room, where the vicissitudes of the weather and storms will not reach them. Some have been so careful in this matter as to dig into the sides of steep banks and form rooms for them there, where they can have proper heat and always a supply of earth for wallowing, &c. These places are secured by doors in front, in which glass may be placed to give sufficient light and heat from the sun. In mild weather they may be let out, but in storms and cold the closer they are kept the better.

Next to bodily protection, food demands attention. It is profitable, and no mistake about it, to feed hens with animal food in winter. In the vicinity of cities and large towns, this can always be furnished in abundant quantities, and at cheap rates; warm food, such as puddings or boiled meal, baked or boiled potatoes, is also beneficial. As a substitute for lime, which should always be placed within their reach in liberal quantities, plaster of Paris answers a very good purpose; we have tried it, and seen its effects. Some few weeks since, from some twenty hens we did not get an egg a week; it occurred to us that there was a lack of lime in the henery, and we took a peck of corn and wet it thoroughly, (if it had been soaked it would probably have been better,) and stirred in plaster (ground) as long as it would adhere, and placed this mess before them. Before the corn was consumed we began to have a plenty of eggs, and the laying season is now going on in earnest. Eggs are now worth, here, eighteen cents a dozen, corn sixty-five cents a bushel, and ground plaster seven dollars and fifty cents a ton; so economists can judge whether the hens will pay for their food. Their manure, for any one who has a garden, will nearly or quite pay for the labor, if carefully saved.

Yours truly,

W. BACON.

Richmond, *Feb.* 7, 1850.

*For the New England Farmer.*

## POTATOES.

Mr. Cole: Much has been written, and many theories advanced, upon the cultivation of the potato; and yet, after all that has been done, I think the mass of farmers are in an unsettled state as to the best and most profitable mode to be pursued under all circumstances. There are doubts as to the kind of seed, whether large, middling, or small, should be used, cut or whole; whether to put one, two, or more pieces, or whole potatoes, in a hill; to plant in hills or drills close together, or far apart, in some cases even to four feet; whether to earth up, or leave the ground level, &c., &c., to the end of the chapter. It is not my intention to express an opinion on all the points in this communication, but to mention what appears to me to be *the most important* of all, and state some facts in my own experience, with the hope of calling out others on this subject.

We have probably all noticed that where small potatoes, or seed from the ball, were planted, in a good, favorable soil, which was well adapted to the growth of the potato, the tendency has been to an increase of size, so that from the seed, in two or three years, *large* potatoes have been produced. Potatoes not weighing more than one or two ounces, on such soils, have produced not only *large* potatoes, but *large* crops in a single year. These facts lead me to the conclusion that *the most important point* is to fit the soil in such a manner as that the potato shall find all the elements necessary to its growth, in abundance, within its reach, from the time the first sprout starts until it is ripe. This being the case, and a sufficient amount of moisture being supplied, I apprehend it would make but little difference, providing the planting was early enough, whether a sprout, or *small* or *large* potatoes, or cut potatoes, were used. At any rate, I am fully satisfied there would not be such a diversity in results, in experiments, as we now have. If the foregoing conclusion is correct, then farmers have something to do, in order to go intelligently to work even in the cultivation of the potato. They must know what food it requires, in what proportion their soils are destitute of the necessary food, and supply it. This will bring into active exercise science, experience, and close observation. Certainly, Mr. Editor, farmers have something to do, if they do not mean to be behindhand in their employment.

To those who cannot avail themselves of the aid of science, experience and observation, if attended to, will be of great help.

Several years ago a neighbor of mine gave me a potato of the Carter variety, which is not considered the most prolific, weighing, I think, something less than three quarters of a pound, which I cut into nine pieces, and planted in the garden, in a drill, the pieces ten or twelve inches apart. The yield was thirty-six pounds. After trying a few to test their quality, the remainder, amounting to about thirty pounds, were saved till the next spring, and planted (after having been cut into single eyes) on an old pasture, about three feet apart, one eye in a hill, about one half manured with a small quantity of long manure ploughed under the sward, and the other half without manure, all asked with perhaps a tablespoonful in the hill. The yield from the thirty pounds was full thirty bushels, four eyes selected producing one half bushel of potatoes. That was certainly a great yield, for the amount of seed, for Attleborough. (I do not know but your neighbor of the Ploughman will dispute my measure, but I can assure him it was fair.)

Experience and observation here will lead us to conclude that old pastures are good for potatoes if the location is right. The pasture referred to had not probably been ploughed for forty years, and although it did not produce much feed, yet it was well prepared for the potato crop.

The question may be asked, Why are old pastures so well adapted to the growth of the potato? The answer may be, mainly, Because the ground is well filled with urine, and otherwise well manured by the solid manure from the cattle. There may be other reasons, but these, no doubt, are the principal.

This view of the subject will bring us to the barn, for the application of manure well saturated with urine for our great dependence, to bring about the desired object of fitting the land not only for the potato, but for all our other crops. We have many other helps, but they should not be wholly substituted for this. I find I have hardly touched upon this subject as I intended when I commenced this communication; but if it will bring out the views of others, I shall be satisfied, and I may resume it at some other time. Yours respectfully,

S. M. STANLEY.

West Attleborough, *Feb.* 7, 1850.

Remarks.—We hope that our correspondent will pursue this subject, and give us his views on the effects of hilling potatoes on dry as well as wet land; also on deep and shallow planting, in regard to its effects on the potato rot, and on the amount of the crop. His success in farming gives importance to his views founded on experience.—Ed.

*For the New England Farmer.*

## CLOSE FEEDING.

Mr. Editor: There is no better way of ascertaining and arriving at the fact of a particular case, than by proving it by experience. In this way I have found out that it is an easy matter for a farmer to keep too much stock on his farm for profit. Many farmers labor under a great mistake in thus overstocking their land. A farm that is amply sufficient to keep six cows, and no more, is too often burdened with nearly double that amount; and by so doing, the farmer is not only the loser in a pecuniary point of view, but his farm, the while, is decreasing in value, by too close feeding. A farm that will only keep six cows in good order is not capable of keeping eight in the same condition, without extra feed from the meal chest, and (in my opinion) this will not pay, for the common run of farmers. Nine years ago the coming spring, I commenced farming, and thought I knew something about the business, (although I soon found that I was but a raw hand.)

The first season the farm was managed in partnership; a horse, yoke of oxen, and three cows were kept on the farm, although the horse and oxen were not suffered to graze in the pastures. The three cows paid a fair profit, and kept in good condition. The second year things were managed in pretty much the same way; and the third year I purchased my partner's stock in trade, with the exception of the oxen, and took charge of the whole. I added two cows to my present stock, thinking the more cows, the greater profit. At the end of the year, however, I did not feel satisfied with the profits resulting from my five cows. I accordingly disposed of one of my cows, and on summing up the profits at the end of the next year, I found that the four had yielded a greater profit than the five had done. Concluding in my mind, that if four cows were of more profit than five, on the same principle, three might yield a profit in proportion, (although I find no rule in "Adams" or "Smith" that supports this doctrine,) I accordingly

disposed of another, and by taking a little extra pains with the *three* left, I churned more butter from the three than I had in any preceding year from the four or five, thus proving that it is not the greatest amount of capital invested, that brings in the largest profits.

It is too often the case that farms are overstocked. It is generally thought to be good economy among experienced farmers not to be obliged to turn cattle into mowing lands, although most farmers resort to this practice. Some one says, the more stock the more manure. True; but it is better to buy a load of manure, than a load of hay. An empty barn the first of April has a very bad look with it, and this is oftentimes the result of close feeding. Few farmers prosper who keep more stock than can be kept in good condition on their own premises.

A. TODD.

SMITHFIELD, R. I., *Feb*, 1850.

*For the New England Farmer.*

## THE WEIGHT OF LIVE BEEF CATTLE

May be ascertained by the following rule. Take the girth of the animal just behind the shoulder-blade, and the length from a point on the tail-bone, whence a perpendicular line will just clear the thigh, thence along the back-bone to the foreside of the top of the shoulder-blade. Reduce the girth and length to inches. Multiply the square of the girth by the length, and that product by the decimal .002, which will give the weight, in pounds and decimal parts.

Suppose an ox to measure 7 feet or 84 inches in girth, and 5½ feet or 66 inches in length; then,

| | |
|---|---|
| The girth 84, multiplied by itself or squared, | 7056 |
| Multiplied by the length, 66..... | 66 |
| Product, and solid contents of the ox,..... | 465,696 |
| Multiplied by the decimal,..... | .002 |
| Gives 931 pounds, the weight of the ox,.... | 931.392 |

The above rule gives the weight of the meat, hide, and tallow, of oxen having from forty to eighty pounds of rough tallow, cows from thirty to sixty pounds, and two year olds having from fifteen to thirty pounds.

JUVENIS.

*For the New England Farmer.*

## SIZE OF FOWLS.

MR. COLE: In the "American Union" of the 16th inst., there is a statement of the comparative weight of fowls, in which pullets or hens which weigh seven and eight pounds, and cocks that weighed ten pounds, are spoken of as something remarkable. I have caused some to be weighed, of the kind my son will furnish eggs from, and find Shanghae pullets and hens from stock originally imported by R. B. Forbes, Esq., to weigh six and a half, seven, eight, and nine pounds each. I have also this day weighed my Cochin China cock, a splendid bird, and find the weight to be eleven and one half pounds. He has been shut up in the barn chamber from the first day of December last with five handsome pullets, from which I expect to raise a good stock of chickens, if possible to reserve eggs enough from many pressing demands.

About the middle of March I shall have my poultry in shape to be seen by any who wish to satisfy themselves as to the above statements.

Yours, HOWARD B. COFFIN.

NEWTON CORNER, *Feb.* 20.

*For the New England Farmer.*

## BEARING YEARS OF APPLE-TREES.

MR. COLE: I have seen a good deal in agricultural papers about apple-trees bearing in odd years. I have been on the farm on which I now live eighteen years. I have one tree of the Baldwin apple, a part of which bears full every year, one part one year, the other the next. I do not now recollect that it has failed of bearing full, one part or the other, for eighteen years. I have a number of trees of the Baldwin apple that bear in odd years, so that I have for a number of years had about two thirds as many apples in odd years as in even years, which, owing to the greater price they bring, makes my orchard about as much profit in odd as in even years.

GEO. FITCH.

SOUTH BRIDGTON, *Jan.* 24, 1850.

REMARKS.—There are numerous cases in which part of an apple-tree bears in alternate years, and the other part in the intermediate years. The bearing year of a part of a tree may be fixed on certain years, while the other part bears in different years, on the same principle that any tree bears in certain years and not in others. A blast may come upon the windward side of a tree, owing to heavy storms at the season of blossoming, and change its bearing year on that side; or a hot sun may kill the blossoms, or the organs of the flowers, on the side most exposed to the heat. This prevention of fruit may change the bearing year, as well as picking off the blossoms, or the defoliation of the tree by canker worms or other causes.—ED.

*For the New England Farmer.*

## MANURES.

MR. EDITOR: Having read frequent accounts in your excellent journal the past year, concerning the different modes of preparing and applying different kinds of manures to the soil, I propose to furnish your readers with a small experiment of my own, some four years since. Possessing a field on my farm containing a dozen acres or so, of an alluvial and loamy soil, I had planted of it, the year alluded to, about two acres in Indian corn, and being desirous to lay it down to grass the same fall, I was advised by a young man who worked for me that season, to cut it up and shock it. I did so as early as it would do, and sowed it down to grass and with winter rye, I think about the first of October.

Being made acquainted by *ocular demonstration* with the good results of salt lye upon a piece of land belonging to one of my neighbors, I was induced to try the experiment on a part of my two acres of rye. Accordingly I laid it off into three equal lots. Upon the first I put two loads of salt lye, upon the second I put two loads of night soil, and upon the third lot I spread a moderate amount of meadow muck, which had lain in the barn-yard, in which were kept five cows over night, from the first of June to the time of laying down, at which time it was all lightly ploughed in. Now for the result. That part which received the salt lye was very heavy, and produced much the largest crop of rye. The part that received the meadow muck was next best, being a very fair yield. The part that was dressed with night soil was the poorest, being nothing more than middling. And so have continued the crops of grass every year since, varying in the same proportion.

Now, Mr. Editor, I am not very fond of trying too

many experiments, or theories, or recommending their adoption by others, for the very good reason of my limited knowledge of the cost. I am inclined to think that they who have the least experience in the art, are the most forward, sometimes, in giving instructions to others. Having never farmed it on a very extensive scale, or had that experience which is necessary to constitute a good farmer, I have ever been *cautious* in adopting those experiments, sometimes recommended by that *class* of farmers who are afraid of taking hold of a plough, or shovel, or hoe-handle, without *gloves* on. CAUTION.

Newton Centre, *Feb.*, 1850.

## THE USE AND VALUE OF NIGHT SOIL.

That man gets his bones from the rocks and his muscles from the atmosphere, is beyond all doubt. The iron in his blood, and the lime in his teeth, were originally in the soil. But these could not be in his body unless they had previously formed part of his food. And yet we can neither live on air nor on stones. We cannot grow fat upon lime, and iron is positively indigestible in our stomachs. It is by means of the vegetable creation alone that we are enabled to convert the mineral into flesh and blood. The only apparent use of herbs and plants is to change the inorganic earth, air, and water into organic substances fitted for the nutrition of animals. The little lichen, which, by means of the oxalic acid that it secretes, decomposes the rocks to which it clings, and fits their lime for "assimilation" with higher organisms, is, as it were, but the primitive bone-maker of the world. By what subtile transmutation inorganic nature is changed into organic, and dead, inert matter quickened with life, is far beyond us even to conjecture. Suffice it that an express apparatus is required for the process — a special mechanism to convert the "*crust* of the earth," as it is called, into food for man and beast.

Now, in nature every thing moves in a circle — perpetually changing, and yet ever returning to the point whence it started. Our bodies are continually decomposing and recomposing — indeed, the very process of breathing is but one of decomposition. As animals live on vegetables, even so is the refuse of the animal the vegetable's food. The carbonic acid which comes from our lungs, and which is poison for us to inhale, is not only the vital air of plants, but positively their nutriment. With the same wondrous economy that marks all creation, it has been ordained that what is unfitted for the support of the superior organism is of all substances the best adapted to give strength and vigor to the inferior. That which we excrete as pollution to our system, they secrete as nourishment to theirs. Plants are not only Nature's scavengers, but Nature's purifiers. They remove the filth from the earth, as well as disinfect the atmosphere, and fit it to be breathed by a higher order of beings. Without the vegetable creation the animal could neither have been nor be. Plants not only fitted the earth originally for the residence of man and the brute, but to this day they continue to render it habitable to us. For this end their nature has been made the very antithesis of ours. The process by which we live is the process by which they are destroyed. That which supports respiration in us produces putrefaction in them.— What our lungs throw off, their lungs absorb — what our bodies reject, their roots imbibe.

Hence, in order that the balance of waste and supply should be maintained — that the principle of universal compensation should be kept up, and that what is rejected by us should go to the sustenance of plants — nature has given us several instinctive motives to remove our refuse from us. She has not only constituted that which we egest the most loathsome of all things to our senses and imagination, but she has rendered its effluvium highly pernicious to our health — sulphuretted hydrogen being at once the most deleterious and the most offensive of all gases. Consequently, as in other cases where the great law of self-preservation needs to be enforced by special sanctions, nature has made it not only advantageous to us to remove our night-soil to the fields, but positively detrimental to our health, and disgusting to our senses, to keep it in the neighborhood of our houses. — *Eng. Paper.*

## THE PARSNIP.

Mr. Editor: Most farmers grow this root as a table luxury, but I have rarely seen it cultivated as a field crop. It is one of the finest and most valuable of vegetables, and in its neglect I behold illustrated the tyranny of custom. There are numberless and cogent arguments capable of being urged in favor of the parsnip. It is not only very easily cultivated, but one of the most nutritive roots that can be cultivated as a winter food for calves, cows, sheep, swine, and indeed, almost every description of domestic animal usually found upon the farm. The soil required for the cultivation of this root, does not vary greatly, in its essential characteristics, from that demanded for the cultivation of the carrot; it should be light, warm, and rather moist, but without liability to parch, and sufficiently rich in decomposing organic matters to insure a healthy development and maturity to the crop. The seed should be sown early, and the surface of the soil closely rolled, or consolidated by some artificial means in order to insure the germination of the seed — a result which may be greatly facilitated by soaking before sowing, in some prepared steep; say rain water in which a small quantity of nitre or saltpetre has been dissolved, or the stale from the barn-yard. As soon as the plants make their appearance, the weeds should be carefully extirpated, and kept down during the season, or until the parsnips have acquired sufficient size to render their presence of little or no injury to the crop. Gypsum, applied in small quantities, at frequent intervals during the vegetable season, acts with highly advantageous effects upon the parsnip, as it does also upon the beet and carrot. If the soil be rich and deep, with a well-graduated supply of moisture, I know of few vegetables which more abundantly repay the labor of the cultivator; and as the plants are seldom attacked by insects, after the first two weeks, the serious losses and perplexing labors involved in the cultivation of other root crops, are, in the management of parsnips, as a general thing, unknown. The use of *guano* is highly recommended by some gardeners, in the cultivation of this root, as it is also in the cultivation of the beet, carrot, turnip and cabbage. In the few instances which have fallen under my own direct observation, its application to the parsnip has been uniformly productive of the best results.

Being a cheap fertilizer, of singular energy and efficiency, and involving but trivial cost in the application, I think it cannot be too highly recommended. Most persons who cultivate the parsnip as a table edible, do not take it up in autumn, but permit it to remain in the soil till spring. By adopting a different course, however, and taking it up in the fall, say just before the closing of the ground by frost, we secure to ourselves a much longer use of the plant, besides having it in greater perfection. When permitted to remain in the soil during winter, it will frequently send out sprouts, and the textures of the fibrous parts become ligneous, and acquire a pithy or resinous flavor, which renders them unpleasant to

most palates, and consequently depreciates their value for table use. If dug in the fall and carefully packed in boxes, with a sufficient quantity of mould from the beds in which they were grown, (in order to secure to the roots the same degree of moisture they were supplied with in their growing state,) they may be preserved until summer in the full power of all their more valuable and desirable qualities.

It has been asserted by some cultivators who have introduced this crop into their *routine*, that it was preferable to the carrot; and that when boiled, mixed with meal or steamed grain, it makes one of the richest, cheapest, and most healthful feeds for swine that can be obtained. In one of our leading agricultural publications, it is asserted that from *eight to fourteen hundred bushels* of parsnips may be reasonably relied on per acre, and that experience has already demonstrated the important fact, that taking one season with another, where only ordinary attention and expense in manuring and cultivation are bestowed, it costs one third less than the carrot, and considerably less than the potato. Horses eat the roots with avidity, fatten rapidly on them, and are capable, when confined to them as their only food, of performing as great an amount of labor, with less fatigue, than when fed on hay and grain. No insect appears to injure the parsnip; the odor of its foliage is probably its protection; and as to the roots, we are not aware that they are ever scarified or perforated by worms. From these evils, so commonly experienced in the cultivation of almost all other root crops, and which so greatly increase the expense of producing them, the parsnip enjoys a most singular and happy exemption.

A NEW CORRESPONDENT.

Philadelphia County, *Dec.* 19, 1849.

— *Germantown Telegraph.*

## CHARCOAL FOR PLANTS.

With respect to charcoal, whether it be wood, peat, or animal, I think that its value, either in agricultural or floricultural application, is not nearly so well known, nor so much appreciated, as it ought to be: that from wood I have long used with the greatest advantage, both in the drainage of pots and as an absorbent in the preparation of manure. For the former it is well suited, when placed over the hole in pieces large enough to prevent their falling through, and to the height of about a fourth of the pot, in the same manner as potsherds are employed. Owing to its highly antiseptic qualities, it will continue for several years in an undecayed state, and consequently afford an efficient drainage for a much longer period than moss, while it is calculated not only to act in like manner as a conveyer of moisture to the plant, but will also tend greatly, from its powers of imbibing and gradually giving out any ammonia with which it comes in contact, and other fertilizing alkalies or gases that may exist in the soil, to produce a more healthy growth in the plant. "The peculiar property of charcoal," says Mr. Squarey, in his Treatise on Agricultural Chemistry, "and the only one that makes it useful in connection with the subject of manures, is its powers of absorbing various gases in the pores of its structure, and subsequently yielding them to moisture. It is proved beyond all doubt, that pure, fresh-burnt charcoal possesses the power of absorbing ninety times its volume of carbonic acid gas." And he further states, "If any manure has been applied, containing ammonia in its free state, that is liable to pass off in a gaseous form, the charcoal will absorb it as it rises, and retain it until the first rain, when the gas will be dissolved by the water and carried into the soil, there to be applied for the assimilation of plants; and the removal of the gas by the rain from the charcoal, restores its original powers of absorbing gas; so that this substance, when applied to the soil, acts as a constant reservoir for these valuable gaseous substances, a property which neither time nor any circumstances can alter. Even when, in the course of cultivation, the charcoal originally applied on the surface of the land, is ploughed under the surface — even there it does not lose its power of absorbing the gases, but carries on its operations with undiminished energy." Professor Johnston, in his valuable work on the Elements of Agricultural Chemistry, strongly recommends the mixing of charcoal, particularly animal charcoal, with liquid manure and other rich applications to the soil, but apprehends that the cost and scarcity of this substance may preclude its being brought into general use. — *Gard. Chron.*, 1849, p. 485.

## SMUT — ITS PREVENTION.

It is one of the happy advantages of the farmer's business, that he is less dependent on man and more upon his Creator, than those engaged in other occupations. Whether sowing, or reaping, or gathering, he must trust to Providence for most of his success. But there is one source from which the farmer often meets with heavy loss, in regard to which, Providence has left it to each man either to avoid it certainly, or run the risk of leaving his crop to take its chance; I mean, that every farmer may secure his wheat against smut, or he can let it alone. Soak, steep, or wash your wheat in brine, and roll it in fresh slaked lime, and there will be little or no smut, according to the care you take in preparing it.

"1845, June 23, four positions (in my Egyptian wheat, unprepared) from which I gather all the smut heads within reach of my arm, give as follows: 9, 35, 15, 12. Four do. in that soaked, 0, 0, 4, 0 — being 68 to 4.

"Five positions in white wheat unprepared, give 34 smut heads, whilst ten positions in that prepared only give 7."

And to show the necessity of using lime to roll it in,— and mine was slaked just before using it, "in a walk through my blue-blade, I find thirty-three smut heads in the part *brined* only; whilst a walk across that brined and limed gives only three. The smut this year is general, and in some fields forms *one third* of the crop. The land sown with wheat which had lain in brine all night, looks thin, and has looked so all the time."

I must call particular attention to the last sentence from my journal, as subsequent experience has satisfied me that if the wheat is allowed to remain too long in brine, it will not come up well. Another extract will both illustrate and explain my views:—

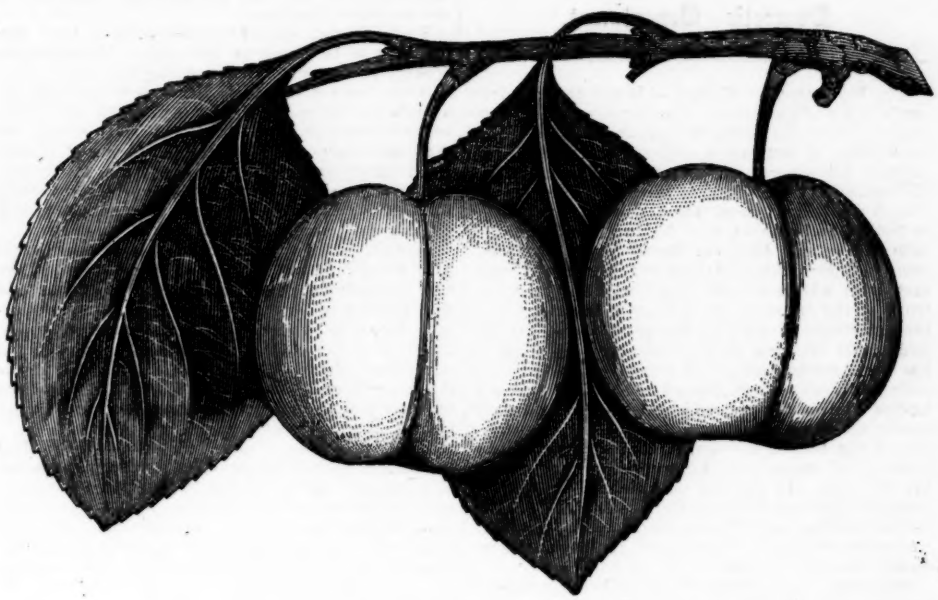
"Oct. 7. The Mediterranean is up fine, *except* that brined and limed, which is slow coming up, the difference being *marked* on both sides. This was soaked for ten or twelve hours. I suppose it to be owing to the extreme dryness of the ground and atmosphere which abstracted the moisture from the grain soaked." Since then I have merely put the wheat in, stir it round, skim it, draw off the brine, roll it, and sow.

W. H. G.

Frederick County, Va., 1849.

— *Dollar Newspaper.*

Youth and Old Age. — As I approve of a youth that has something of the old man in him, so I am no less pleased with an old man that has something of the youth. He that follows this rule may be old in body, but can never be so in mind. — *Cicero.*



## LUCOMB'S NONSUCH PLUM.

This plum has not been cultivated to much extent in New England; of course it has not been well tested. Mr. Lackey, of Marblehead, whose favorable opinion of this fruit may be found in our last number, p. 60, remarked to us that he considered it almost equal to the Jefferson. We saw it last fall at Mr. L.'s, and it was very flourishing both in tree and fruit. Our engraving is from specimens which he kindly furnished, the quality of which was excellent.

It will be seen, on p. 74, in our notice of the N. A. P. Society, that Mr. Thomas had an unfavorable opinion of this fruit, while others had a very favorable opinion of it. It appears to be one of the most promising varieties, and worthy of experiments, if not of general culture.

The fruit is rather large; roundish, slightly flattened at the base, and considerably flattened at the top; dark green, variegated with shades of yellow, and covered with white bloom; the stem nearly straight, and two thirds or three fourths of an inch long, in a rather narrow, deep cavity; suture broad and shallow; flesh greenish, rather fine, rich, sweet, with an agreeable mixture of acid. Ripens the last of August and the former part of September. The tree is hardy, vigorous, and a constant and pretty good bearer. English origin.

### FINE MUTTON.

We lately saw, in the stall of Mr. Hiscock, No. 9 Faneuil Hall Market, some of the finest mutton and largest carcasses ever brought to this market. Mr. H. bought of Mr. George Goodhue, Coberskill, Schoharie Co., N. Y., thirty-four fat sheep, supposed to be a cross of the Cotswold and Leicestershire breeds, both of which breeds are distinguished for their large size and fine mutton. The carcasses of the three largest weighed one hundred and eighty, one hundred and eighty-two, and one hundred and eighty-four pounds, which far exceeds the largest ever brought to this market from England or from any section of this country. Mr. H. paid, for the largest five, thirty dollars each; for the others, fifteen dollars each, delivered here. We have tried this mutton, and find it remarkably sweet and tender.

We have often urged upon our farmers the importance of raising fat mutton, for our markets are scantily supplied with it. It would doubtless be profitable business. The great advantages for transportation at a rapid and cheap rate, afford peculiar facilities for getting mutton to market, even from those sections where land is cheap. Many who grow fine wool would find it more profitable to produce fat mutton and wool of common quality; and this will continue to be good business, until our markets are better supplied with fat mutton.

### SOOT.

The effects of this manure on growing crops, as a top-dressing, are immediate, owing to the large quantity of sulphate of ammonia which it contains. It promotes in a high degree the growth of grass, and the second cut of clover is also greatly increased thereby. Soot promotes the growth of cabbages and other herbaceous plants in a remarkable manner, and is much esteemed for garden purposes. It has been found advantageous as a top-dressing for wheat, but care should be taken not to apply it in large quantities, or it may be injurious by burning the plants. — *Transactions of the Highland Society.*

## Domestic Department.

THE INFLUENCE OF WOMEN. — It was an auspicious era in the world's history, when female intellect was delivered from the bonds of ignorance, and declared susceptible of cultivation, and upon an equality in natural endowments with the mind of man. Many illustrious men have been of the opinion that, as the "weaker vessel," woman was designed to be inferior in intellectual powers, — to be the servant, rather than the equal. However honest these may have been in their belief, and however strenuously they may have advocated, and endeavored to prove, the truth of the assertion, the history of modern times, the experience of our own age, most clearly furnish undeniable evidence to the contrary. Although it has been, comparatively, but a few years since a female education was considered essential, there are a host of witnesses, who have distinguished themselves in every department of literature, and in every exercise of the mental abilities, to offer their testimony in behalf of woman's right to a thorough and practical education. In the list of American women, we could point to many, whose depth of thought, beautiful imagination, and refinement of expression, at least compete with, if they do not excel, the most extraordinary efforts of masculine writers.

Nor is the proof of this equality alone dependent upon experiment. The Holy Scriptures, in recording the creation of man, give the strongest argument, and in the most explicit terms. As remarked by a learned writer, woman was not taken from the head of man, that she might become his superior, — but from his side, thus indicating her perfect equality; not the ruler, nor the subject, but the participant in the joys or the sorrows of our race.

The social state has placed her to preside over affairs around the domestic hearth — distasteful to the natural capacities of man; where the harmony and peace of the family are especial objects of her guardianship. But this is not all; the earliest impressions upon the human mind, the first tutoring of the world, is confided to her. She is to plant the seeds of virtue or vice — of industry or idleness — in the soul of the infant. The new-born mind, fresh from the hand of its Creator, spotless and pure, is to dawn beneath the genial rays of a mother's piety, or to be seared and blighted by her negligence and vicious example. She is to stereotype upon the yielding surface lessons of reverence and godliness: to write upon its first pages, with the pen of holiness, a record of its obligations to its Creator, and its future blessed immortality — or feed the sinful evidences of its fallen nature, for a fuller and more distant development, its proneness to evil.

How important, then, if these responsible situations are to be filled by woman, that she should be educated, fitted and prepared for them! By education we do not mean every thing that is generally classed under that head; by no means. The spirit of imposition, by which no profession or vocation is uninjured, has devised systems and branches, which it were far better if they remain unlearned. Nor do we allude to the most popular method of education, combining, as it does, much that is useless, with a very small portion of available knowledge. It is the education of the heart, and the corresponding enlightenment of the mind with pure, practical, and necessary information. It is that education which is calculated to instruct them in the objects of their creation; in the duties and obligations of the station which the foresight of Infinite Justice has assigned them; and the means by which they may act in unison with the designs of the Eternal; promote the enjoyment of their own privileges and comforts, and contribute to the happiness of others.

These are things not to be learned in a day. Nor are they to be found in the resorts of fashionable seekers of amusement, nor among the gay and the trifling; nor yet in the institutions of outward accomplishments, and superficial instruction. All these are most eminent means of disqualifying woman for the duties naturally imposed upon her, and change her destiny from being the most potent power to impart good, to an evil destroyer, scattering abroad with a reckless hand the germs of vice, whose fruit can alone be fully recognized in eternity.

Woman is not only the equal of man — his companion and helpmate — and the being to whom the first impressions of infancy are confided — but also the preserver of the union and the harmony of society. She it is whose approbation can nerve to fire the spirit of the coldest temperament; whose frown will dispirit the most ardent ambition; whose pleading tear will melt the ice-clad heart, and draw from the close embrace of a frigid nature, the warmest and most sympathetic sentiments.

She is the ruler of mankind — if not by holding the reins of political government, nor by preëminence in evangelical and sectarian power — still, she governs, by the most potent of all sceptres — moral suasion. Her power in controlling man is almost unlimited; and while, as a general rule, she is inclined to be mild and generous, she can be worse than tyrannical — for her dominion is such, that none will fail to acknowledge it, and few will venture to disregard it.

In view of these facts, they who are to occupy this all-important position have no time to spend upon whimsical and temporary accomplishments, and shallow, imperfect, and unnecessary systems of instruction. So great an end must be difficult of attainment — and yet, unless it be arrived at, the design of the Almighty has not been carried out, and woman is perverted from the most perfect creation of Deity, and the most powerful means of instilling virtue, into a vain, foolish, and degraded creature.

In short, the only study of woman should be — herself! A theme sufficiently complicated to admit of the most profound research, and continued investigation, and important enough to demand the whole of her leisure time and attention. It is not necessary, nay, it is utterly superfluous, to crowd her mind with the literature of obsolete ages, and with theoretical fantasies of speculative brains. She is not to fulfil her duties by theory, but by every day practice; why, then, withhold from her a tangible, useful education? She is never to roam over the fields and converse with the inhabitants of the planets or stars — why, then, consume her time with the relation of pure speculations, and imaginary truths, when she has to acquire so much, which she must either use in her daily life, or feel her unpardonable deficiency? Why instruct her in the polish of an education, while she is ignorant of its elements? Why teach her to execute the most beautiful pieces of elegant embroidery, and at the same time leave her unknown to the most simple lesson of domestic duty? Why teach her to mimic the tawdry colors and motions of the butterfly, and suffer her to remain untaught in the objects and end of her creation?

These are solemn inquiries — we feel them to be such — and we address them to those who have charge of the female mind; and most earnestly recommend a more universal attention to the practical education of young women. They are to be wives, practically — mothers, practically — guardians of young intellects, practically; and should they not be aware of these facts, and, by a practical, tangible, and available education, prepared for the discharge of these responsible duties?

## Youth's Department.

How do you spend your Evenings? — Young man, how do you spend your evenings? Answer this question, and we can tell you, almost to a certainty, what will be your future character. In our view, more depends upon the manner in which young men pass this season, as it regards their course and conduct in years to come, than upon any thing else. We have been an observer of men and things, for the last twenty years, and can point to many a youth, who has caused weeping and sorrow in his family, disgraced his name, and is now an outcast in the world, or has sunk to a dishonored grave, who commenced his career of vice, when he broke away from wholesome restraint and spent his evenings in the company of the abandoned. On the contrary, we know many estimable young men — the pride and hope of their friends — who are working their way to favor and wealth, who spend their leisure evenings in some useful pursuit.

Young man, listen to us, and take heed to our words — not that we wish to deprive you of a single pleasure, or debar you from any innocent amusement. We entreat you to be particular *where* and *how* you pass your evening hours. If you lounge about the bar-room, partaking of the vulgar conversation that is introduced, and join the ribald song, or stand at the corner of the streets, using profane and indecent language, you will soon so habituate yourself to low blackguardism and vile conversation, that no young man who respects himself will be found in your company.

## Health Department.

Medical Uses of Salt. — In many cases of disordered stomach, a teaspoonful of salt is a certain cure. In the violent internal aching, termed cholic, add a teaspoonful of salt to a pint of cold water — drink it, and go to bed; it is one of the speediest remedies known. The same will revive a person who seems almost dead from receiving a very heavy fall, &c.

In an apoplectic fit, no time should be lost in pouring down salt and water, if sufficient sensibility remain to allow of swallowing; if not, the head must be sponged with cold water until the senses return, when salt will completely restore the patient from the lethargy.

In a fit, the feet should be placed in warm water, with mustard added; and the legs briskly rubbed, all bandages removed from the neck, and a cool apartment procured if possible. In many cases of severe bleeding at the lungs, and when other remedies fail, Dr. Rush found two teaspoonfuls of salt completely stayed the blood.

In cases of bite from a mad dog, wash the part with strong brine for an hour, then bind on some salt with a rag.

In toothache, warm salt and water held to the part, and renewed two or three times, will relieve in most cases. If the gums be affected, wash the mouth with brine; if the teeth be covered with tartar, wash them twice a day with salt and water.

In swelled neck, wash the part with brine, and drink it also twice a day until cured.

Salt will expel worms, if used in the food in a moderate degree, and aids digestion; but salt meat is injurious if used much.

## Mechanics' Department, Arts, &c

Manufacture of Parchment. — Vellum is made of the skins of calves, kids, and dead born lambs; and parchment is made of thin sheep and she goat skins. The wool or hair must be removed from them first, and then they are steeped in a pit of lime water. After they are taken out of the lime pit, they are shaved and well washed, and then stretched on a frame made of upright and cross pieces strongly fastened together, and the bars are perforated with a series of holes to receive hard wood or iron tapered pins. Each pin has a hole in it like a violin pin, to hold the string tied to the skin, to stretch it, and prevent it from puckering while drying. Skewers are also employed to stretch more or less of the skin on this frame, (*herse,*) according as a greater or less piece is required to get hold of. Some employ hoops in place of the herse, and this answers tolerably well. The great point is to stretch the skins as much as possible, keeping out all the wrinkles. While the skin is on the stretching frame, the workmen, with a currying double edged knife, remove the fleshy excrescences by drawing the knife downwards. The skin is then sprinkled upon the fleshy side with chalk, and well rubbed with a piece of flat pumice stone. The pumice stone is then rubbed over the other surface of the skin without chalk. The skin is then allowed to dry, but must be protected from sunshine and frost. It must not be dried too suddenly. When it is perfectly dry, the chalk is removed by rubbing it with the woolly side of a lamb's skin; but great care must be taken, in this process, not to injure the surface. All grease must of necessity be removed from it; this is the object of steeping it in lime.

After the skin is dried, it is transferred to a frame called the *scroper*, where it is extended with cords, generally upon a piece of calf skin well stretched. The skin is placed with the tail downwards, when the rough edges are pared off with a sharp knife, and then the outside surface is scraped obliquely downwards till it becomes perfectly smooth, and whatever irregularities may remain, are removed by a flat, smooth piece of pumice stone. To do this, the skin is placed upon a stool stuffed with wool and covered with soft parchment. It is called the cushion. The pumice stone should be very fine, the finer they are the better. Sometimes there are small holes made in the parchment skin; these are neatly patched by cutting the edges thin and pasting on small pieces with gum water. Parchment is often colored green, which is done by a mixture of cream of tartar, verdigris, and nitric acid, (only a small quantity of the latter.) It is made into a solution of water and laid on evenly with a sponge — the skin having been first wet. Parchment receives its necessary lustre from the white of eggs, or weak gum water. — *Sci. American.*

Ventilating Bricks. — The London Builder says that there has been registered in the Patent Office a brick so shaped, that when two are placed end to end, a circular space is left at the junction. This circular space connecting from course to course, a wall formed with them is, to a certain extent, hollow, and admits of currents of air through it, either heated or otherwise. Each brick is nine inches square and three inches thick, the size of two common bricks, so that only half the usual number is required to do a rod of brick work; and as they pay but one duty, and are laid with a very little more labor than a common brick, the work may be executed at considerable saving. A common brick is used at the angle of each course. — *Ibid.*

## EQUINOCTIAL STORMS.

From many years' observation, we have formed an opinion that the common notion about the equinoctial storm, or line gale, is erroneous. We have often said to our friends, of the contrary belief, about the time the sun crosses the equator, that we had no storm, but they have said that it would come soon; and after waiting so long for the line gale that a storm could not be considered as coming under that head, they have observed that it must have been such a storm that happened some days, or a week or two, before the equinox. This is a subject of considerable practical importance to farmers, as they are intimately interested in the condition of the weather; therefore we copy the following very interesting article, on this subject, from the Ohio Cultivator, which we are happy to meet with, as they confirm our opinions, which we think are founded on truth. We invite a close investigation of this subject in future.

### "THE EQUINOCTIAL STORM" EXPLODED.

*"Prove all things — hold fast to that which is good."*

Among the many errors that have been allowed almost undisturbed possession of the public mind, perhaps for centuries past, few are more common than the belief in *equinoctial storms:* and, as we shall presently show, few notions are more destitute of support either from science or actual observation. Our attention has been called to this subject for eight or ten years past, owing to the occurrence of the agricultural fairs in the month of September, and the objection which would invariably be made against holding a fair during the week when the *equinox* would occur, on account of the supposed probability of bad weather. But on observation, we have noticed that from the 20th to the last of September was, if any thing, more commonly fine weather than any other period; hence we discarded the popular doctrine of equinoctial storms.

At the meeting of the Board of Agriculture in Cincinnati last spring — the time for the State Fair being under discussion — this "equinoctial storm" theory was strongly defended; and knowing that Dr. Ray, of Woodward College, had for many years kept an exact daily record of the weather, we have requested him to favor us with the result of his observations upon this point. The following communication is his answer, and we think it is conclusive; but if any important facts or arguments are adduced on the other side, the Doctor has the daily records, and will give them. — Ed.

*Equinoctial Storms.* — Is the weather, at that period of the year denominated the Autumnal Equinox, (Sept. 23,) generally stormy, or of a more unfavorable character than at other periods?

This question is proposed in reference to the Northern and Middle States; though what is true in regard to them, cannot vary materially in the Southern States.

In reply to this question, it may be observed, that *popular opinion* has long since decided in the affirmative. The time when the "sun crosses the line" is, in the estimation of numerous individuals, a very important astronomical event, and quite worthy of being celebrated with storms of wind and rain, and a general disturbance of the atmosphere.

The "line" (*equator*) is also regarded as some great physical development, like the mountain ridge, encircling the earth. In regard to popular opinion, it is only necessary to observe that it is a very *unsafe guide*, both with regard to the existence of facts, and the causes of phenomena, but especially the latter. There are, however, two methods of answering the question, both of which we shall briefly notice.

*First.* Is there any thing at the period of the equinox, in the particular relation of the great operating causes, that has a tendency to produce an unusual state of the weather? In reply to this it may be said, we have the *equinox*. And pray, what constitutes the equinox? Simply the fact that the sun has no declination, or for a moment of time (and only a moment) is vertical *at some point of the* IMAGINARY LINE *on the earth's surface called the* EQUATOR. But the sun is *always* vertical to some point on the earth's surface; can it then be supposed that the mere fact of its being vertical at a certain point equally distant from the poles, shall have such a due influence as to conjure up vapors, storms, winds and rain, as if nature designed, by raising a great commotion in the atmosphere, to celebrate one astronomical period, while others, equally important so far as the earth is concerned, are permitted to pass by unheeded and unsignalized? Thus the periods when the earth passes through the aphelion and perihelion points have an important relation to the climate of the earth, and to the seasons of the year; but as they are not generally so well known as the period of the equinox, they have not been furnished with storms to celebrate their advents.

*Second.* What is the testimony of recorded observations? To this I reply, no writer on meteorology that I have consulted, makes any mention of such a phenomenon as in common parlance is denominated an equinoctial storm. I refer particularly to Kaemtz, Daniel, Howard, and Ferry, all of whom in their respective works treat of the subjects of rain, winds, and storms. One of these (Kaemtz) furnishes tables of the number of storms occurring at different places during each month of the year; but at no place did the greatest number of storms occur either in September or October. Now it can hardly be supposed, if such a phenomenon as an equinoctial storm existed, that it would have entirely escaped the observation of men whose lives were devoted to the collection of facts pertaining to the science of meteorology, and reasoning from them.

My own observations extend through a period of fifteen years, but the records of 1835, except the abstract, are not now to be found, so that I can only refer to them since that period. During this period of *fourteen* years, *ten* of these equinoctial days were either clear, or fair and pleasant days; while *two*, though partly clear, were more than one half cloudy; and *two* only were entirely cloudy and *partly* rainy.

But those who maintain that there is usually a "*bad spell of weather*" at or near the equinox, may wish to know how many such spells happen within some given period, of which the equinox was the middle. For the satisfaction of such, I would state, that by taking a period of *one month*, that is, about two weeks before and two weeks after the equinox, we have had *five* bad spells of weather, while on *nine* of the years there was no weather that could be called unpleasant.

From these data it would seem, that if a great public meeting were to be held in the month of September, it would be advisable to fix it for the 23d — *the very day of the equinox!* — as the probabilities are very strong (6–7) that it would be a dry day, and pretty strong (5–7) that it would be fair, that is, more than half clear; while the probability that it would be wet is very small (1–7.) JOSEPH RAY.

Woodward Col., Cin., *Nov.* 1849.

---

Fat Cattle. — Hezekiah Taylor, of Westfield, Mass., has five pairs of steers, whose aggregate weight is 22,220. The several pairs weighed as follows: 4,620, 4,020, 3,990, 3,860, 3,760.

## PROFITS OF A DAIRY.

Mr. Editor: We have many times noticed in your paper, statements made by different writers on the profits of a dairy.

Below we give you an account of the proceeds of our dairy in the year 1849, from forty-one cows, six of which were heifers, having their first calves the same season: —

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 41 calves, at four weeks old, $4 each | $164 | 00 |
| 3747 lbs. cheese, at 9 cents per pound | 337 | 32 |
| 6569 lbs. butter, best quality, for table use, at 20 cents per pound | 1,313 | 80 |
| 6670 gallons, or 18 gallons per day, new milk used on table, never skimmed, at 3 cents per quart | 788 | 40 |
| For manure | 200 | 00 |
| Total amount | $2803 | 52 |

Expenses, &c.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10 tons wheat bran, or ship stuff, at $10 per ton | $100 | 00 |
| 900 bushels beets, at 12½ cents per bushel | 75 | 00 |
| 62 tons of hay, at $8 per ton | 496 | 00 |
| 26 weeks' pasturing for 41 cows, at 12½ cents per week each | 333 | 25 |
| Slops from kitchen, during the year | 15 | 00 |
| Net expense | $1019 | 25 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Total amount | $2803 52 |
| Deduct expenses | 1019 25 |
| Balance | $1784 27 |

Making an average for each cow, of

| | |
|---|---|
| Butter | 150 lbs. 3½ oz. |
| Cheese | 96 lbs. 6½ oz. |
| Milk | 160 gallons. |

The milk, it will be understood, is that which is used on table by boarders, never skimmed.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Add manure and calves and the total amount for each cow | $68 | 37 |
| Deduct expenses | 24 | 86 |
| Net profit to each cow | $43 | 51 |

Made of butter in the month of October, 1849:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st week | 180 lbs. |
| 2d " | 201 " * |
| 3d " | 191 " |
| 4th " | 187 " |
| 5th (½ week) | 173 " |
| Total in October | 932 lbs. |

We prefer putting our cows in the stable while milking, at all seasons of the year. This affords an opportunity of messing twice a day, and is done regularly at time of milking, believing it the best time. Wheat bran, (or shorts,) mixed with slops from the kitchen of dairy, makes a good feed for milch cows.

Some think it quite objectionable and very unnatural *for cows to eat or drink whey and milk*, but we see no good reason for such objections.

We have practised, for some years, feeding our cows with the whey and skimmed milk from our dairy, mixed with wheat, buckwheat, or rye bran, and have never seen any injurious effects whatever; but, on the contrary, believe it to be very beneficial, and productive of good sweet milk and butter.

It is very necessary for milch cows to be well supplied with good pure water, especially in the winter season, when fed on dry fodder. We make a practice of watering our cows twice a day, morning and night; this is given them in the stable, where they can drink at leisure, sheltered from cold and storm.

New Lebanon Shaker Village, (numbering one hundred and thirty persons.) — *Pittsfield Culturist.*

* Largest amount of any week during the year.

## IMPROVEMENT OF STOCK.

We copy the following article from the report of the Committee on Bulls, T. E. Payson, Esq., Chairman, published in the Essex Agricultural Society's Transactions: —

Naturally and intimately associated with our report, is the subject of "Improving the Breed of Cattle." A remark or two upon that subject may be neither uninteresting nor out of place. The importance of a more thorough knowledge, of clearer ideas upon it, than we now have, is apparent to every body. In fact, no such thing as breeding stock, as an art, is known among us; and the man who has the credit of being a stock-raiser, generally gets it because he has a greater number of half-starved calves than his neighbors, and in whose stock there are as many varieties of shape and color, as there were in the stock of Jacob, when he separated from his father-in-law. Every imported bull that happens to come in his neighborhood, no matter what his blood, nor what the blood of his cow, is crossed with his stock. Now although crossing in any way is preferable to breeding in and in, yet this indiscriminate crossing will never, to any extent, improve our stock. If we get a good cow, it is the result of accident — mere chance. Experience, so far, has shown that importations from abroad, and the crossing with them, have in no way benefited our milch cows. They may have furnished us better oxen in some respects; but they have not yet helped us to any more butter and cheese.

Your committee are of opinion, that the only successful mode of improving our stock, is by a judicious, systematic, enlightened attempt, which has for its basis the native stock of the country. And it is only by an enlarged view of this, or any other matter connected with nature, that we can arrive at the truth. The advantage of crossing has been spoken of; but let it be remembered, that if you expect good from it, you must bring together animals, *not nearly related*, but of the same breed. Nature is uniform in her operations. Wild animals of a particular breed are generally of the same shape and color. Flowers resemble each other. But by man's intervention, the beast, the bird, the flower, are made to assume new colors and forms. If these changes are of value, they must be the result of sound judgment, enlarged views, enlightened experience, and a complete knowledge of the principles upon which nature operates.

Until these are attained, you may spend money, you may import stock, you may offer premiums, and no more benefit be derived from it, than has been from what has been done by this and other societies for the last thirty years. We have no better cows now than we had then; we have no larger proportion of them; and in our breeding, whether or not the calf which we raise will make a good cow, or be good for nothing, is all mere chance.

The State Society have, with a zeal worthy of imitation, in most respects, made efforts to improve the stock of the country. But has that zeal been entirely according to knowledge? Can they put their finger on any point, and say, In this respect at least we have made some progress? It may be that your committee have not full knowledge on this subject; but we are satisfied that if the stock "which boasts of a long line of ancestry of the purest and most approved breeds," and is not tainted with a

drop of "ignoble blood," is not more productive, so far as the dairy is concerned, than it is generally reported to be, it is better adapted to a royal than a republican territory. In conclusion, we hesitate not to say, that we have the elements of as good milch cows, as there are any where, and that if men who have the means, will apply science and enlightened judgment to their developement, instead of going abroad for cows, we can furnish better of our own, than can be found elsewhere in the wide world.

## ONIONS FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL.

To give some idea to those who have not thought on the subject of the effects of age upon a cultivated soil, I shall here mention a fact that struck me as being not a little singular at the time it occurred. At Dunstaffnage, near Oban, in Argyleshire, Scotland, which is a mountainous country, and naturally a barren soil, a small garden was pointed out to me, on which was growing at the time one of the finest crops of onions I had ever seen. I took notice of it with some degree of surprise, because I had seen no other crop of onions in that district that was tolerable; but my surprise was a good deal augmented on being told, that the present crop in that garden was by no means remarkable; that it had been cropped with onions, year after year, from time immemorial; that the present owner of it, who was a man above eighty years of age, had never seen any other crop than onions upon that ground; and that the oldest person alive, when he was a boy, had told him the same thing, and the crop was always an excellent one. Dunstaffnage was a royal palace, belonging to the kings of Scotland at an early period of their history, almost beyond record; and there can be little reason to doubt that this garden was brought under cultivation at that time, so that it cannot now be less than five hundred years old, and probably several hundred years more. I question much if the soil could have been rendered capable of producing successive crops of such fine onions, for a great many years after it was first turned up from the waste, by any device that the ingenuity of man could have suggested. To judge, then, of the most profitable mode of cropping such old soils, by the same rules that would apply to those which had not had time to be fully matured, would be very absurd. Many cases of this sort would no doubt occur on our survey of the Netherlands, could it be properly effected. — *Dr. Anderson.*

## MANURES.

I apprehend that all are fully aware, that the principal source of vegetation is that of putrescent matter; hence the importance of attention to the collection of as much vegetable and animal substances, as can possibly be accumulated during the less busy part of the season. The bottom of the barn-yard should be so enclosed, as that the extracts from the manures, produced by rains, could be retained, and absorbed by a layer of earth previously put in, say from four to ten inches in depth; this under stratum is designed as an absorbent to retain all the extractive matter produced; and it will be found to contain a large quantity of fertilizing material thus secured, in *addition* to the amount of manure produced in the usual way barn-yards are generally managed. This additional compost may be used with decided benefit for the corn crop; or it may be removed in common with the vegetable manure of the yard for the winter crops. If intended for the latter crops, the whole mass should be well mixed together, and a most valuable manure will be the result.

The great object in the application of manures should be to make it afford as much soluble matter as possible to the roots of the plants, and that in a slow and gradual manner, so that it may be entirely consumed in forming its organized parts. Manures from animal substances, in general, do not require a chemical preparation to fit them for a judicious application for the soil. They need only to be blended with earthly constituents, in a proper state of proportions, thereby preventing their too rapid decomposition. Agricultural chemistry teaches that all manures from organized substances contain the elements of vegetable matter, which, during putrefaction, are rendered either soluble in water, or aëriform; and in this condition they are capable of being assimilated to the vegetable organs. Plants can grow only in places where they are supplied with nourishment, and the soil is equally necessary to their existence, both as affording them support to a certain extent, and enabling them to obey those mechanical laws by which nature develops their perfection. A. S.

Montgomery Co., Pa., 1850.

—*Dollar Newspaper.*

## ELECTRICITY.

The earth is the great reservoir of electricity, from which the atmosphere and clouds receive their portion of the fluid. It is during the process of evaporation that it is principally excited, and silently conveyed to the regions above; and also during the condensation of this same vapor, the grand and terrific phenomena of thunder and lightning are made manifest to our senses.

In order to form a correct estimate of the immense power of this agent in the production of electricity, we must bring to our view the quantity of water evaporated from the surface of the earth, and also the amount of electricity that may be developed from a grain of this liquid. According to the calculation of Carvallo, about five thousand two hundred and eighty million tons of water are probably evaporated from the Mediterranean Sea in a single summer's day. To obtain some idea of the vast volume of water thus daily taken up by the thirsty heavens, let us compare it with something rendered more apparent than this invisible process. President Dwight and Professor Darby have both estimated the quantity of water precipitated over the Falls of Niagara at more than eleven million tons per hour. Yet all the water passing over the cataract in twenty days would amount only to that ascending from the Mediterranean in one day. More recent estimates make the mean evaporation from the whole earth as equal to a column of thirty-five inches from every inch of its surface in a year, which gives ninety-four thousand and fifty cubic miles as the quantity annually circulating through the atmosphere. Thus we see the magnificent scale on which the great machine works.

Dr. Farraday has shown that a single drop of water contains as much electricity as an ordinary flash of lightning — enough at least to destroy the life of an elephant. Thus the little dewdrop, from which the poet has derived such sweet images, may suggest to us ideas of a more sublime nature.

## HARROWING WHEAT IN SPRING.

In none of the improvements in agriculture do I find farmers so *slow to believe* as in harrowing wheat after the ground has settled in the spring. Some ten or fifteen years ago much was said on this subject in the Genesee Farmer, showing the results of experiments, and explaining the reasons why it should operate beneficially upon the crop.

Farmers know that a hard crust forms upon ground exposed to the frosts and drying winds of March and April, and that this crust greatly retards vegetation. But the great objection is, it will pull up all the wheat to harrow it. Having practised harrowing my wheat every spring for the last eight or ten years, and uniformly with good effect, I feel disposed to recommend the practice to my brother farmers. Of late years I have been in the habit of ploughing in my wheat at the time of seeding with a gang plough, leaving it in the furrow. In the spring after the ground has become dry, the last of April or early in May, I harrow lengthwise of the furrows, then crosswise, loosening up the ground thoroughly. I should like to do this just before a rain. If the land is to be seeded with clover, I sow on the seed and harrow it in. This I think far more safe than sowing early and trusting to the heavings of the frosts and the wash of rains to cover it. Early sown clover is often killed by the droughts so common in April.

I have been amused at the earnestness with which some of my neighbors would remonstrate with me for harrowing my wheat. "Such a fine piece of wheat," say they, "to be spoiled in that manner! He ought to be sent to the mad-house."

And afterwards, when the crop showed for itself it was not ruined, "O, it was such a good piece of land, it will produce a good crop in spite of your experiments." A field of wheat looks bad while under the process of harrowing, as it is prostrated and partly covered with earth; but after a shower, it starts up fresh and vigorous, like a field of corn refreshed by a shower after being hoed. I have often examined as to the amount pulled up, and do not believe it will average a bushel upon ten acres. Farmers, try it; and be not frightened by the appearance. I never yet heard of a field injured by it. MYRON ADAMS.

East Bloomfield, N. Y., *April*, 1849.

— *Genesee Farmer.*

## SAVING MANURE.

*A Southern Example worthy of Northern Imitation.* — My friend Mr. Keeling, who keeps that excellent house at Norfolk, the National Hotel, has lately bought a farm near town, which he is determined to enrich; and this is one of the methods he has taken. He has all the ashes from the hotel, which are made from his bituminous coal, put into a pit, and upon this all the urine, soap-suds, and dish water is thrown as long as it will absorb it, and the mass is then hauled out and spread upon the land.

In the privy vault, he has a layer of soil spread every week, to which is added a sprinkling of plaster and dissolved copperas, sufficient to absorb all the ammonia. After a time, that is all taken out and spread upon the land, without its being at all offensive to handle. Every dead animal that comes within his reach is buried in a pile of weeds, straw, trash, earth, or swamp muck, to fertilize the mass, and in its turn fertilize the soil. He has lately planted three thousand bushels of oysters for the use of the hotel, the shells of which, by and by, will be burnt, and spread upon the land. He is also preparing to grind plaster, which is brought here as ballast, and can be had for seventy-five cents to one dollar a ton. And with these appliances he is determined to raise grass, notwithstanding the unfashionableness of that crop in all the south.

Now, this gentleman is not a practical farmer, but derives his ideas from reading, reflection, and common sense; and I leave it to any one possessed of a small share of this latter commodity, to say if his ideas are not of a more common-sense character than many farmers have, who call themselves wholly practical. — *Am. Agriculturist.*

## QUICK WORK.

A friend, who doubted a statement as to rapid work in knitting, was presented with the following certificate by the son of the lady who certifies. It is dated West Charlton, Saratoga Co., N. Y. We have not permission to use her name. And we would inquire whether this rapidity of work has ever been equalled by another.

"This certifies that I have repeatedly spun and knit one pair of men's socks, of common size, in a day; and that I have for weeks together spun and knit six pairs a week."

## THE FARMER IS NOT PROPERLY ESTIMATED — WHOSE FAULT IS IT?

It is a lamentable fact, that the farmer does not occupy that elevated position in society that his occupation justly entitles him to. He is looked upon as a being below the lawyer, physician, divine, artist, merchant, or even a merchant's clerk. To be a *farmer*, is to be a nobody, a mere clodhopper, a digger of bogs and ditches, and dung heaps, and free to wallow in the "free soil" he cultivates, provided he never seeks to elevate himself above that position, to what the world is pleased to term "good society." Hence comes the desire of "the boys" to escape, not so much from the drudgery of their employment, as from the idea that they are looked upon and estimated as mere drudges.

What blindness, folly, and false philosophy is this! The result of these false premises is, that the "professions" are crowded to the starvation point; clerks not only go begging, but become beggars, or worse; merchants are multiplied, and good, old-fashioned labor is gone out of fashion.

While we would give all due honor to the professions, the farmer, who is the *producer* of all, both in food and raiment, that adds to the comfort and sustenance of the human family, need not feel that he is *below* occupations that gain their support from the folly, pride, misery, or wickedness of their fellow-creatures.

If the aspiration of farmers were half so strong to elevate their sons to farmers, as it is to make them merchants or professional men, and, perchance, loafers, we should soon be taught to look to the agricultural class for the best bred, as well as best fed, men in America. — *Barnum's Address.*

Agriculture. — It is an innocent pursuit, that can do injury to no one. It invades no man's just rights, and prejudices no man's safety, health, peace, or reasonable enjoyment. It is a beneficial employment, for whoever cultivates the earth, and covers it with rich and golden crops, renders it more beautiful; and whoever causes the earth to yield its fruits, increases the means of human comfort and subsistence.

Irresolution. — In matters of great importance, and which must be done, there is no surer argument of a weak mind than irresolution; to be undetermined where the case is so plain, and the necessity so urgent; to be always intending to lead a new life, but never to find time to set about it; this is as if a man should put off eating and drinking, and sleeping, from one day and night to another, till he is starved and destroyed. — *Tillotson.*

## NOTICES OF PUBLICATIONS.

New England Poultry Breeder, Containing a History of Domestic Fowls, with Directions for Rearing and Management, illustrated with Engravings. By a Practical Poulterer. Boston: R. B. Fitts & Co.

This work embraces a variety of interesting matter to the poultry breeder, particularly in regard to the descriptions of fowls. It contains an engraving of the Cochin China fowls, taken from the only lot, as it is said, that have been imported into this country. This breed has generally been confounded with the Shanghae.

The Horticulturist. — This work is devoted to the various subjects of horticulture, rural taste, and rural architecture. The editor, A. J. Downing, Esq., sustains a high reputation from his works, which have done much to diffuse useful information and correct taste throughout the country. An important feature in this work is the embellishment of rural residences, a subject almost wholly neglected in many sections. Published monthly, by L. Tucker, Esq., Albany, N. Y., at $3 per year; Messrs. J. Breck & Co., agents in this city.

Hovey's Magazine of Horticulture. — Our readers have occasionally read our favorable notices of this work. Each number contains outlines and minute descriptions of various important fruits, their origin, history, &c., with a great variety of other highly valuable matter. We are pleased that the price of this valuable magazine has been reduced, (as may be seen by advertisement in our advertising department,) as it will greatly extend the circulation of the work.

American Flora, in monthly parts, each part illustrated with beautiful likenesses of plants, taken from nature. The botanical descriptions, history, propagation, culture, and uses of each plant are fully given. By Dr. A. B. Strong. Green & Spencer, New York. This is a splendid, beautiful, and interesting work. A new edition has just been commenced, which affords subscribers an opportunity to begin with the commencement of the work.

Illustrated Natural History, by the same editor and publishers, is embellished with numerous engravings, which are remarkable for their lifelike appearance; and so interesting is the matter, that if this work is put into a family, they will take great pleasure in gaining a knowledge of this important branch of natural science. It is monthly, at the low price of $1 per year.

Transactions of the Norfolk Agricultural Society. — Although this is the first number of this work, as the society has been in operation only one year, it is of large size, and well filled with interesting matter.

Insurance Abstract for 1849.

---

A locomotive is the only good *motive* that can be given for *riding* a man on a rail.

*For the New England Farmer.*

## HYMN TO FARMERS.

Plough on! ye vigorous sons of toil —
God's noblemen, who feed mankind;
Your calling is to till the soil —
The noblest work of hands and mind.

Commissioned by the seal of God,
Turn ye the stubborn glebe with pride;
For at your will shall forests nod,
And earth to you its fruits confide.

Heaven's chosen almoners on earth,
Your moistened brows shall bless mankind;
And as ye send your bounties forth,
So each shall his own blessing find.

Toil on, and raise your standard higher,
And let the cry be, "Higher still!"
'Tis emulation fans the fire,
And keeps alive the sturdy will.

The mace of power let others wield;
*Your* talents spread upon the soil;
And God shall give a bounteous yield,
And well reward your faithful toil.

D.

Boston, *Jan.* 26, 1850.

## THE OLIO.

A sharp Retort. — The following, from an exchange paper, is the best hit that we have lately seen: "Two old gentlemen of our acquaintance were complimenting each other on their habits of temperance. 'Did you ever, neighbor,' said one, 'see me with more than I could carry?' 'No, indeed,' was the reply, 'not I, but I *have* seen you when I thought you had better have gone twice after it.'"

A man who had become rich by his own exertions, was asked by a friend the secret of his success. "I have accumulated," replied he, "about one half my property by attending strictly to my own business, and the other half by letting other people's alone."

If the spring put forth no blossoms, in summer there will be no beauty, and in autumn no fruit. So, if youth be trifled away without improvement, riper years will be contemptible, and old age miserable.

It should be an indispensable rule in life, to limit our expenses to our present condition; and whatever may be our expectations, to live within the compass of what we actually possess.

"Digby, will you have some of the butter?" "Thank you, marm, I can't take any thing *strong;* I belong to the Temperance Society."

---

TERMS. — The New England Farmer is published every other Saturday, making a neat and handsome volume, at the close of the year, of 416 pages, at $1 a year, or five copies for $4, payable in advance. It may be elegantly bound in muslin, embossed and gilt, at 25 cents a volume, if left at this office. As it is stereotyped, back numbers can be furnished to new subscribers.

☞ The Postage ☜

On this paper is only 1 cent, or 26 cents a year, within the state, or within 100 miles out of the state; and 1½ cents, or 39 cents a year, beyond those distances.

STEREOTYPED AT THE
BOSTON STEREOTYPE FOUNDRY.